Application Number: Reply Dated

10/692,217 May 22, 2009 December 23, 2008

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Amendment to the Specification

As further shown in FIGS. <u>2A-4</u> 2-4, internal ribs 132 define the sliding contact surface areas with the outer surface of inner jacket 120. Placement of the internal ribs 132 in a radially offset arrangement relative to external ribs 134, as shown in FIGS. 2A and 4, enables the wall 131 of sleeve 133 to flex, to thereby accommodate any undulations or variations in the outer surface of inner jacket 120 as it slides along the length thereof in the telescoping operation. Similarly, if the sleeve 130 is fixed relative to the inner jacket 120, the radially offset internal and external ribs 132, 134 allow the wall 131 of the sleeve to flex in order to accommodate variations in the internal surface or internal diameter dimension of the outer jacket 110.